

Just wanted to give you a heads up on the planned protest that we worked last night. We had prior knowledge of the event [Redacted] that advertised the protest asking for people to assemble in Heritage Square on October 8 at 530PM. The protest was billed as an anti-Columbus day/abolish Columbus Day event.

The post also stated-: *"Calling for anti-colonial resistance to desecration of sacred places, police/state violence, forced relocation, missing & murdered Indigenous women, anti-homelessness, border militarization, & attacks on migrant families"*.

We initially had two supervisors and four officers assisted to the event. The group grew to about 40-50 people and after speeches were made in the square the group began to march west down the sidewalk carrying several signs. Our supervisors attempted to speak to a couple of the apparent leaders, Klee Benally being one, asking them to stay on the sidewalk and obey all traffic signals etc. They refused to communicate with us, attempted to provoke us and proceeded to block several intersections in the downtown area. They also drifted into the west bound lane of traffic on Route 66.

(We called some additional officers to assist once the protesters began to march-day shift officers who were still in the building and a couple of NAUPD officers).

During the march our officers shadowed them at to keep them on the side walk for obvious public safety concerns. All ongoing attempts to communicate with them failed and they refused to listen or follow any directives to stay on the sidewalk and not to block the intersections. A female was observed marching with a baby in a stroller, and when asked to stay out of the traffic way with the young child she refused. Our officers did an excellent job of using discretion and restraint by not falling prey to the insults and lack of respect that was shown. After making a loop and blocking the intersections the group assembled back at Heritage Square made a few more speeches and proceeded to burn an American flag. They left the square at about 8PM.

As we were monitoring the march an unknown subject damaged one of our unoccupied patrol cars with an ink pen. The message read "F*** the Police". Several arrests could have been made immediately for blocking a public thoroughfare, but the decision was made to conduct an investigation and issue criminal complaints at a later date. This allowed the group to dissipate without any perceived negative action by the police.

[Redacted] I was present for the last 45 minutes of the protest and am very proud of how our Supervisors and Officers conducted themselves in a professional manner.

Please let me know if you have any questions, thanks and have a good day.

Walt Miller
Deputy Chief
Flagstaff Police Dept.
(928) 679-4090
wmiller@coconino.az.gov
FBINA Session #270